

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2001 (BOS Mtg. 2/20/01)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Historic Yorktown Beach Trail Grant

As you know, staff submitted a grant application to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation for a portion of the Riverwalk referred to as the “Historic Yorktown Beach Trail”. We just received a letter from John Paul Woodley, Jr., Secretary of Natural Resources, announcing that the application has been approved, and the County will receive a grant in the amount of \$117,500. This grant has been approved for the purpose of acquiring property needed for the proposed project.

The proposed “Historic Yorktown Beach Trail” will be constructed along the York River shoreline extending from the Wharf area to Yorktown Creek. The trail will pass behind the Watermen’s Museum and across several other parcels. It will be a major part of a comprehensive riverwalk project that will provide a continuous pedestrian linkage extending along the entire length of the York River shoreline in historic Yorktown. Since the “Historic Yorktown Beach Trail” will be connected to the Riverwalk, it will provide pedestrian access to and between two of the major visitor attractions in Yorktown—the Colonial National Historical Park on the eastern side of the village and the Yorktown Victory Center on the western side. In addition, it will provide new access to beach areas along the York River as well as providing a safe, pleasant, and educational walking experience along the Yorktown waterfront.

The proposed beach trail will be completed in the following three phases:

- Phase 1: Land acquisition for the Historic Yorktown Beach Trail and for associated shoreline erosion protection structures. This phase should take less than 6 months to complete since all landowners are willing to support this project.
- Phase 2: Installation of Shoreline erosion protection structure.
- Phase 3: Construction of the Historic Yorktown Beach Trail.

The County has also submitted an application for Transportation Enhancement funding to help pay for future development costs (Phases 2 and 3) for the beach trail.

The grant agreement is only two pages long and requires the County to follow routine State procedures. The complete grant agreement is attached for your reference. The most significant grant requirement involves funding. The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grant will pay half of the \$235,000 estimated cost of land acquisition. The County is required to match the \$117,500 grant with local funding. To this end, \$450,000 is already available in the adopted Yorktown Capital Improvements Program in the current fiscal year for the purpose of acquiring waterfront property from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (property that is currently in the Mary Mathews' estate). As outlined below, some of the property needed for this project will be acquired from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

Easements and/or land title will need to be acquired from 9 parcels to complete this project. The property rights that will be acquired will be wide enough to accommodate the future 8' to 10' wide pedestrian walkway and will extend in a northerly direction to mean low water. Three (3) parcels are in the Mary Mathews' estate and should soon be deeded to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation; three (3) parcels are owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation (we anticipate securing use of this property at no cost); two (2) parcels are owned by the Watermen's Museum; and one (1) parcel is owned by the National Park Service (and is included in the parcels being evaluated in the proposed NPS/County land exchange). Appraisals will be performed to determine the fair market value of the properties.

There are several details associated with the Watermen's Museum that should be noted. In 1999, the Board approved a \$50,000 capital improvements grant for the Watermen's Museum. The August 1999 grant agreement that was executed by the Museum indicates that it will donate without charge the easements necessary to accommodate extension of the Riverwalk across its property at a mutually agreeable location. The easements have never been conveyed since the design and desired location of the walkway has not been determined. We are now negotiating acquisition of fee simple title, rather than an easement (with the Watermen's Museum to retain Riparian rights for a pier). In addition, we anticipate that there will be costs associated with relocating a portion of the deck that is next to the carriage house to make room for the Riverwalk. The value of the Museum's previous easement commitment will be considered and factored into negotiations for the final cost of the property.

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation has asked us to consider holding some type of ceremony or other event to publicize this grant award. The Watermen's Museum is willing to have such an event at the Museum. If the Board accepts this grant, I will arrange a date that is convenient to the Board for the ceremony. |

Recommendation:

I recommend that the Board adopt the attached proposed Resolution R01-32 that does the following:

1. Accepts the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grant in the amount of \$117,500.
2. Authorizes the County Administrator or designee to sign a project agreement with the Grantor in form approved by the County Attorney.
3. Authorizes the County Administrator to acquire property for the “Historic Yorktown Beach Trail”.
4. Appropriates the \$117,500 grant to the Yorktown Capital Improvements Program.

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Attachments